

REMARKS

The present application was filed on October 12, 2001 with claims 1-18. Claims 1, 7, 13, 15 and 17 are the independent claims.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0073195 to Hellerstein et al. (hereinafter "Hellerstein").

In this response, Applicants: (i) amend independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 15; and (ii) traverse the §102(e) rejection for at least the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to, for example, as recited in amended independent claim 7, a computer-based method of providing decision support to an analyst in accordance with an event management system which manages a network with one or more computing devices. The method comprises the steps of automatically analyzing, off-line, data representing past events associated with the network of computing devices being managed by the event management system, the automated off-line analysis comprising generation of one or more visualizations of one or more portions of the past event data and discovery of one or more patterns in the past event data, and automatically managing rules off-line, the automated off-line rule management comprising construction and validation of one or more rules formed in accordance with the automated off-line analysis of the past event data. Independent claims 1, 13, 15 and 17 recite similar limitations.

As illustratively explained at page 4, lines 23-28, of the present specification, many benefits may be derived from use of the automated off-line techniques of the present invention. By way of a first example, expert analysts are made more productive by tools that automatically discover patterns that would require considerable manual effort. By way of a second example, less experienced analysts are made more expert by using tools that automate rule construction so that the focus is on "rule critiquing" rather than "rule authoring."

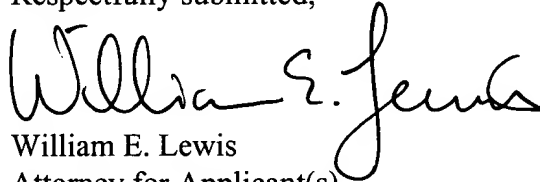
Applicants respectfully assert that the cited Hellerstein reference does not disclose a combination of automatically analyzing, off-line, data representing past events associated with the network of computing devices being managed by the event management system, the automated off-line analysis comprising generation of one or more visualizations of one or more portions of the past

event data and discovery of one or more patterns in the past event data, and automatically managing rules off-line, the automated off-line rule management comprising construction and validation of one or more rules formed in accordance with the automated off-line analysis of the past event data, as recited in the claimed invention.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 1, 7, 13, 15 and 17 are patentable over the cited Hellerstein reference. Also, it is asserted that the claims that respectively depend from such independent claims, namely, claims 2-6, 8-12, 14, 16 and 18, are patentable over the cited Hellerstein reference not only for the reasons given above, but also because such dependent claims recite separately-patentable subject matter in their own right.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent part.

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